



Nevada Department of
Agriculture Don Henderson, Director

*"Serving Nevada
Since 1906"*

October Newsletter

Administration

- Don Henderson and Rick Gimlin met with the Budget Division Director and fiscal staff from the Legislative Council Bureau to present an overview and introduction to the Department's FY06-07 budget proposal.
 - As the Vice Chairman for the NASDA Plant and Animal Committee, Don Henderson has lead weekly telephone briefing meetings regarding the Mediterranean fruit fly infestation in Tijuana, Mexico with agriculture representatives from the border states and USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service.
 - Don Henderson met with representatives from the sheep industry and Mark Jensen, Acting State Director with the USDA Wildlife Services, to discuss wildlife predation issues and program needs in Nevada. Since that time, Mark Jensen has been appointed to the State Director position. Congratulations Mark on your new appointment and welcome to Nevada!
 - Don Henderson and Gary McCuin have been involved in several meetings this month with representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and area ranchers to discuss and coordinate on a livestock grazing management alternative developed for the Martin Basin rangeland project environmental impact statement.
 - Don Henderson, Jim Connelley, and Gina Session, Senior Deputy Attorney General, met with Bob Abbey, BLM Nevada State Director, to discuss future
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procedures relating to state brand inspections conducted in response to BLM livestock impoundments.

Las Vegas Office

Red imported fire ants

- 366 sites were surveyed this year; and 20,888 bait traps were placed. The UNLV Site was positive and is being treated. A high priority alert was received about 9 potentially infested shipments of nursery stock from W.D. Young and Sons Palm Nurseries in Coachella, Calif. The sites were surveyed and found negative.

Pest Control

- Shirlene Wayland and Scott Cichowlaz conducted record audits and use inspections. They also investigated two complaints on pesticide use.

Nursery

- Marv Berson completed 14 nursery inspections and two truck inspections during the first two weeks of October. Marc Olson did three truck inspections and two exit inspections.

Other Pest Surveys Through October

- **Gypsy moth:** 268 traps placed; 170 removed with 169 negative and one sample submitted to Reno.
- **Japanese beetle:** 63 traps placed; 11 at airport checked three times-negative; 30 removed-negative.
- **Khapra beetle:** 8 traps placed; checked twice and re-baited-no finds.
- **Africanized honey bee:** traps within quarantine zone removed; 12 traps maintained along northern quarantine boundary; no finds outside quarantine zone.

Division of Livestock Identification and Agricultural Enforcement

Ag enforcement statistics-September, 2004

- 275 Vehicle stops.
- 19 warning citations issued.
- 8 court citations issued.
- 17 verbal warnings.
- 1 hold order issued.
- 43,477 animals inspected.
- 61 strays returned.
- Ag Enforcement officers, Dennis Journigan, Chris Collis, Larry Reynolds and Brand Inspector II, Randy Rowley attended a NHP Emergency Vehicle Operations training in Elko during October.

- Ag Enforcement Investigator, Chris Collis and Lt. Dennis Journigan investigated a case of unknown suspects butchering one or more of Dan Filippini's cows south of Battle Mountain. Multiple suspects have been identified and evidence seized. Arrests are eminent.
- The Department's Agriculture Enforcement Unit took delivery of 2 new vehicles in October; they were purchased with Homeland Security grant funds.
- Administrator, Connelley attended the Nevada Cattlemen's Association pre-convention Livestock Issues Committee meeting in Winnemucca. This meeting is the policy development session of the committees prior to final policy determination at the annual convention in November.

Nursery

- Peggy McKie attended the Western Horticulture Inspectors Society meeting in Seattle, Washington. Topics discussed included the status of sudden oak death detection efforts in Washington and Oregon, invasive species management, nursery stock certification for shipments to Canada, and "pests under the radar" – destructive pests that are becoming established but that are not garnering media attention or federal interest.
- Peggy McKie toured a post-entry quarantine facility in Tukwilla, Washington to better understand the construction requirements for such facilities in anticipation of a similar facility being built in Northern Nevada. The Nevada facility is being proposed to house bonsai plants shipped from China. The plants are required to be held in the facility for two years and regularly inspected before they are allowed to be released into the trade.
- USDA notified NDOA that a large wholesale nursery stock grower in Oregon had tested positive for sudden oak death, and that 17 establishments in Northern Nevada had received sudden oak host material from the infested nursery. All 17 establishments were contacted by NDOA staff in Reno, Carson City and Elko. Most of the establishments were "big box stores" with seasonal sales of nursery stock and no longer had any nursery stock on the premises. Four nurseries in the Reno/Sparks area still had SOD host material on site. Only one nursery still had plants remaining from the original suspect shipments. That stock was isolated, placed under a state hold order, and sampled. All other SOD host material in the four nurseries was inspected and samples taken from any stock that showed symptoms of SOD. All host material sampled was placed under a state hold order pending test results. All samples were submitted to Dr. Wang. All samples were negative for SOD and nursery stock on hold at the nurseries was released.

- Peggy McKie, along with Dr. Wang, collected samples from a diseased specimen maple planted in the landscape at a nursery. The nursery owner had requested assistance with identifying the disease. Dr. Wang determined that the disease is *Phytophthora cactorum*, “bleeding canker of maple”. The disease has a broad host range and is easily transmissible. The nursery owner was advised to remove the tree to prevent inadvertent infestation of adjacent containerized nursery stock.
- Peggy McKie attended the Nevada Certified Farmers Market Association meeting to provide the group with an update on the proposed revisions made to the producer certificate regulations (NAC 576). Attendees submitted comments which were considered by the department and subsequently included in the revisions.
- Peggy McKie met with the editor of the *Nevada Organic Review*, Nevada’s organic industry newsletter, to discuss ideas for the next two issues.
- Peggy McKie performed two organic program inspections; one of a processor, the other of a farm.
- Peggy McKie attended a smuggling interdiction presentation by USDA APHIS staff.
- Peggy McKie finalized federal organic cost-share program documents and forwarded them to accounting for payment to applicants. This federal program reimburses 75% of certification and inspection costs to certified organic farmers located in Nevada.

Wildlife Services

- On Monday, October 26th, Mark Jensen was selected as the State Director of Nevada Wildlife Services Program. Mark started his career with Wildlife Services in 1993 and has worked in several states most recently as the Assistant State Director in Oregon. Mark has his BS in Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University and is a graduate of the 2001 class of the APHIS Leadership Excellence Program.
- On Tuesday, October 12th, Wildlife Specialist Wayne Rowley confirmed the loss of one calf (value \$500) as due to coyote predation. The Elko aerial crew, consisting of Pilot Shane Huseby and Crewmember Gilbert Temoke, assisted in resolving the predation by aerial hunting the private ranch and surrounding area. WS Rowley provided ground support and located several coyotes by howling for the aircraft to remove. The value of the calf was \$500. Eighteen coyotes were removed for the morning.

- On October 14th, a livestock producer from Lander County reported that predators had killed three ewes (valued at \$300) and the livestock producer also reported observing a large group of seven coyotes around the sheep bands. On October 14th, WS Don Capelli inspected the dead ewes and confirmed that the livestock damage was caused by coyotes. WS Capelli requested assistance from the West District's aerial hunting crew. On October 15th Pilot Scott Jensen and Crew Member Brandon VanderMay conducted aerial hunting activities around the location of the dead ewes. The aerial crew located one additional ewe (valued at \$100) that had nine coyotes actively feeding on the ewe carcass. The aerial crew removed a total of 21 coyotes from close proximity of the sheep bands. No further livestock losses have been reported since, however, this area has a history of livestock losses. WS Capelli will continue to monitor the situation.
- On Monday, October 4th, DS Darren Williams responded to a call for assistance from a Clark County entity concerned about raccoons. County personnel stated that part of their moth-balled facilities were slated for demolition in the near future and were concerned about a local population of raccoons inhabiting those facilities. County personnel requested WS assistance in removing the raccoon population in order to prevent the dispersal of the raccoons throughout adjacent subdivisions and to eliminate human health and safety issues surrounding the presence of the raccoons. By Friday, October 15, trapping efforts yielded 10 raccoons of various age classes and four significant latrine sites. Biological samples were collected from the raccoons and the latrines for disease monitoring purposes. The cooperator expressed their appreciation for WS ability to assist in the elimination of this health issue. Although reported raccoon activity has greatly diminished, trapping and monitoring efforts continue.
- On Wednesday, October 20th, WS Southern Nevada District Office was notified by the Clark County Health District (CCHD) and the Nevada State Veterinarian's Office that biological samples of raccoons and their latrines recently submitted by WS had tested positive for endo-parasites. Several types of samples tested positive for the presence of the raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) and a second roundworm, *Capillaria*. Both types of these parasitic roundworms pose a serious health risk to humans and this discovery identifies the first time raccoon roundworm has been identified in Southern Nevada. The finding prompted CCHD to issue a public health warning and provide notification to the property where the raccoons were removed to take strict health precautions until the threat could be eliminated.